Incredible India Campaign

558. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that while there is a great potential in tourism in our country, there is little exploitation;

(b) whether the basic problems with tourism is lack of infrastructure and without short/long term plans, we cannot translate the success of our campaign Incredible India into ground reality; and

(c) if so, what is our short/long term plans to address the basic issues like easy access to our country and availability of viable hotel accommodation for foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Tourism is aware of the scope for further development of tourism in the country.

(b) Lack of adequate infrastructure is considered as one of the major constraints in this regard.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism is making efforts in coordination with Ministries of Civil Aviation, Railways, Road Transport, Urban Development and the State Governments to expand and improve the basic infrastructure for development of tourism in the country.

Foreign Tourist flow into Orissa

559. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lack of air connectivity and bad time schedule of flights are the prime cause of fall of foreign tourist flow into Orissa; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The foreign tourist arrivals to Orissa have increased. The figures for the last three years are given as under:

Year	Foreign Tourist Arrivals in Orissa
2001	22,854
2002	23,279
2003	25,020

(b) Does not arise.